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LAW OFFICES
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November 16, 1989

United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region III
241 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

ATTN: Deane H. Bartlett
Sr. Asst. Regional Counsel

Dear Ms. Bartlett:

On Saturday, November 11, 1989, my wife contacted personnel occupying our property in Providence Village, near Elkton, Maryland. Our property was the Spectron, Inc. recycling site before the State of Maryland closed it because of a shortage of available funds in case of closure and before your agency occupied it at the State's urging out of fear of "heat lightning" and other well-known hazards where "explosives" like lacquer solvents are concerned. The reason for contacting these personnel was to arrange for transferring a new spare part in our supply room (still in its box) to a local company that had to cut back its operations over the weekend for lack of the spare part. My wife was told that she could not remove the spare part because it had not been decontaminated and that, furthermore, my wife and I were forbidden to set foot on our property under any circumstances. In addition, we were told we could not remove anything, even a paper clip, from the property in any circumstances.

On Monday evening, November 13, 1989, we heard through a friend that four engine companies, from Maryland and Delaware, were converging on our property. Later we heard they were called back because a neighbor had turned in a false alarm based on his/her observations of activities on the plant site.

Out of curiosity I stopped by our property to see what was going on. I arrived there about 6:30 P.M. In stepping out of the car I immediately smelled a strong sour odor that

300210

United States E.P.A
ATTN: Deane H. Bartlett
Sr. Asst. Regional Counsel

November 16, 1989

Page Two

I identified as coming from the old swamp water/paper stock lying beneath the cinder fill that constitutes the thick surface layer of the plant side of our property. I notified the man in charge that the odor was oppressive, that I knew what they were doing with water and that I wanted it stopped. He replied that the odors came from faulty septic systems upstream. I told him he was wrong.

On Thursday, November 16, 1989, I stopped at the office building to drain the bathrooms for winter. In the daylight I observed the following on the office side of our property:

- * Our mailbox installation was bent back 30% off vertical.
- * The fence around the office property has nearly been destroyed, especially the heavy gate posts.
- * A man was casually strolling off the footbridge from the plant side carrying or wearing no safety gear whatsoever.
- * There is a 55-gallon steel drum full of something standing in front of our office building.
- * Steel and wood debris littered the parking area.
- * An open gasoline-type container with spout extended sat under one end of one of the trailers on the ground.
- * Cars and trailers were parked everywhere.

As a result of these insults to our property, the neighbors and us, my wife and I demand that the following remedial steps be taken:

1. Cease pumping rainwater out of dikes and various entrapments on the plant side into containment pools from which the water is pumped into pseudo purifying apparatus and then injected below ground or into the river. This practice is illegal and it creates the sour odor. Remove rainwater from the site in the manner Spectron was obliged to do when it was in operation.

2. By November 30, 1989, remove all trailers, automobiles, drums, gas cans, debris, etc. from the office side of our property. It is not part of the CERCLA superfund site and you have no right to be there absent a negotiated lease with the owners.

300211

United States E.P.A.
ATTN: Deane H. Bartlett
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November 16, 1989

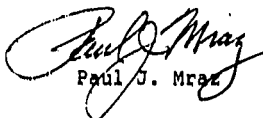
Page Three

3. Pay my wife and me seven months' rent (May through November) for your usage of the office side of our property At \$750.00 per month (\$75,000 fair market value), that amounts to \$5,250.00.

4. Restore the fence to its original condition. Put the parking blocks in their proper place.

I will expect an answer in short time.

Yours truly,



Paul J. Mraz

RJM/cmm

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